

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12-24 and 58-62 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,084,740 (Leonhardt et al.). It is the Examiner's opinion that "...Applicants' method is at the very least an obvious variation of the reference process."

Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants' claim 1, as amended, calls for "...printing on the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area the plurality of optically detectable servo tracks."

The Examiner admits that "...the reference discloses ... a method ... comprising... applying a servo track on to the backing a magnetic tape on the side opposite the magnetic layer by laser marking the backing with the servo pattern." Leonhardt et al. neither describes nor suggests printing on the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area the plurality of optically detectable servo tracks, as claimed in claim 1.

Instead, at col. 7, lines 20-25, Leonhardt et al. discloses "(t)he system for writing optical servo tracks 400 includes a laser 415 that focuses a beam of light into beam expanded 412. The expanded beam output by beam expander 412 is extended through hologram 411 which splits the beam into a plurality of individual beams 304-409, which are focused onto tape 100 by lens 410." There is no suggestion in Leonhardt et al. of printing on the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area the plurality of optically detectable servo tracks.

Thus, a person seeking to provide printing on the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area the plurality of optically detectable servo tracks would not be lead to Applicants' claim 1 by the teachings of Leonhardt et al. since Leonhardt et al. relates to a system for writing optical servo tracks with a laser beam of light. Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 is patentably distinct from Leonhardt et al.

Applicant : Hong Chen et al.
Serial No. : 09/361,669
Filed : July 27, 1999
Page : 4

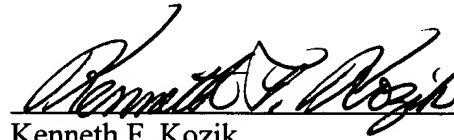
Attorney's Docket No. 06837-121001 / Q01-1058-US1

Applicants have cancelled claims 19, 20 and 50. Applicants' claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12-18, 21-24 and 59-62 depend upon, and further limit, claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12-18, 21-24 and 59-62 are patentably distinct from Leonhardt et al.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a \$390 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, Order No. 06837-121001.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth F. Kozik", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth F. Kozik
Reg. No. 36,572

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 19, 20 and 50 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 12, 15, 18, 21, 22, 23, and 60 have been amended as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A method for producing on a magnetic tape having a magnetic recording side and a non-recording side opposite the recording side, a plurality of servo tracks capable of being optically detected independently from one another, the method comprising passing at least a portion of the magnetic tape through a work area; and [, providing a beam pattern of a plurality of intensity-modulatable optical beams, directing the beam pattern on the non-recording side of the magnetic tape, and] [marking] printing on the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area the plurality of optically detectable servo tracks.

3. (Three times amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [a servo track] each of the plurality of servo tracks comprises a plurality of discrete optically independently detectable longitudinally spaced marks.

7. (Three times amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [the optical beam pattern] printing is produced by [a laser] an inkjet.

8. (Three times amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein [modulating the optical beams includes pulsing the laser to provide an intermittent source of radiation and thereby forming the plurality of servo tracks in discrete sections] the inkjet printing includes a fluorescent material that is optically detectable under selected lighting conditions.

12. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, including the act of cleaning the magnetic tape subsequent to [marking] printing a servo track on the magnetic tape.

15. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 [, including the step of] further comprising optically verifying a characteristic of the optically detectable servo tracks for controlling a marking quality of the servo tracks.

18. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [marking] printing to the portion of magnetic tape includes applying an embossing roller to the tape to form [the] a servo pattern thereon.

21. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [marking] printing to the portion of magnetic tape includes metallizing the tape to form [the] a servo pattern thereon.

22. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, that includes employing a photographic process to develop an image representative of [the] a servo track pattern.

23. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein [marking] printing to the tape includes applying a fluorescent [fluorescent] material to the magnetic tape.

60. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a force generated by a linear tape motion urges the recording side of the magnetic tape against a first surface disposed in the work area so as to maintain a printing [beam] focus of the non-recording side of the tape with respect to a [the beam] printing pattern.